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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 423, March 16, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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SENT DEPARTMENT 423, REPEATED LONDON 105, PARIS 105 (FOR OSR).

Our Labor Attache in conversation with CSC President Cool was told attitude of Catholic Trade Unions (CSC) to results of popular consultation is exact opposite of stand taken by Socialist FGTB (REEMBTEL 408 March 15). Cool not only believes 57.7 percent majority for Leopold is sufficient to warrant King's return, but states only problem left is to organize manner of re-entry into country.

Cool envisages Leopold return will be maneuvered by pact between Catholic and Liberal Parties. Majority of Liberals, in his opinion, will decide to vote for Leopold in order to retain portfolios in cabinet and to satisfy "large masses of Liberal voters in provinces who obviously voted 'yes'." Cool derides effectiveness of possible FGTB strike action. He indicates public utility strikes in Wallonie will affect Walloons and, therefore, primarily those who voted against King, whereas mine and metallurgical walkouts would have to be sustained longer than Socialists intend in order to damage country. Strikes in Flanders would be calculated to hurt bulk of voters for King, but it is exactly here where FGTB has least power to effect general strike.

In reply to "terror" allegations of FGTB leaders during electoral campaign, Cool states such recrimina-tions are natural result of disappointed party and labor leaders who are seeking excuses to explain defeat at polls.

MURPHY

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